

Comments on the Draft Grant Program Guidelines for Proposition 50, Chapter 8 9/30/04

submitted by:

Robin Freeman, Chair

Merritt College Environmental Program 12500 Campus Dr. Oak. CA 94619, 510-434-3840

rfreeman@merritt.edu

Director,

East Bay Watershed Center

Steering Committee Member,

Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

II. E Statewide Priorities

Environmental Justice concerns need to include Technical Assistance, Training, Capacity Building, and Public Education in order to bring disadvantaged community members into the process on an equitable footing.

Implementation Grant Solicitation

The regional agencies need to include proportional hiring and training of members of disadvantaged communities within their area. They should include an Environmental Justice analysis of the area and what participation would be appropriate. They should show that, if they do not have the expertise on their staff, that they will hire an EJ consultant to develop this portion of their project. Is there a way to provide technical assistance in the form of outreach to EJ communities so they learn about and can participate in the proposal process? Mechanisms for citizen involvement in general are not clearly called out. Our research at the CalFed funded East Bay Watershed Center shows that citizen groups in general need direct contact at times and places which are convenient to them, help in interpreting the technical details of the project, and direct participation in decision making. When disadvantaged communities are involved, stipends to cover the costs of participating with paid agency and grantee employees are required. (see Evaluation Criteria)

Appendix A Standards

K. Financing – Include what % of benefits will accrue to EJ communities in the project region

L. Statewide Priorities – The ROD requires EJ participation and there should be a Technical Reviewer with expertise in EJ.

N. Stakeholder Involvement – Identify how the financial, linguistic, and technical obstacles for EJ participation will be overcome.

Appendix B-Planning Grant

B.1 M Disadvantaged Communities. The Proposal should document financial, linguistic, and technical obstacles for EJ participation and how they will be overcome.

EVALUATION CRITERIA – ALL GRANTS

Disadvantaged Communities – Add- Does the proposal demonstrate how financial, linguistic, and technical obstacles for EJ participation will be overcome?